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| 09/990,789 | 11/16/2001 | Murali K. Nandigama | SUNMP026 | 3114 |

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| EXAMINER |
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LOFTIS, JOHNNA RONEE

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3623

DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/990,789 | Applicant(s) NANDIGAMA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Johnna R. Loftis | Art Unit 3623 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a final office action upon examination of application number 09/990,789. Claims 1-22 are pending and have been examined on the merits discussed below.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 2/8/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Jalla does not teach insertion of an ad hoc task into a schedule; however, Jalla (column 3, lines 5-32) teaches that it is sometimes necessary to alter an original plan as the work progresses wherein task management must be dynamic. Therefore, the *updating* of the tasks takes place at the end or beginning of the workday, this does not mean that tasks are only inserted at the beginning or end of the schedule. As taught in column 4, the inserted tasks can be modified and the system allows monitoring of progress of assigned tasks. In addition, Jalla teaches tasks can be removed from the schedule. The fact that tasks can be added to and removed from the schedule makes it evident that readjustment is made to the schedule to accommodate for the changes.

3. Applicant also argues that the reporting in Jalla only includes the progress of the assigned tasks wherein members only report what work has actually been completed in light of what they were assigned. However, Jalla (at column 3, line 51 through column 4, line 6) teaches that all the tasks for each member are fed into the task manager computer program (this inherently includes any modification of the schedule). Therefore, not only are completed tasks stored, but each task assigned, including ad hoc tasks, are stored.

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4. Prior rejections of the claims under 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103 are upheld and are reproduced below for convenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

6. **Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16 and 18-20** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jalla, US 6,446,968.

As per **claim 1**, Jalla teaches recording projects of the group (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 – inherently the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed); planning project tasks for each member in the group, the tasks directed toward completing the projects (column 3, lines 50-53 – inherently the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed); receiving a request for an ad hoc task which interrupts a schedule for the planned project tasks (column 4, lines 24-36 – tasks, not previously included, can be inserted into the schedule for a member); readjusting the project tasks to capture the interruption of the ad hoc task (column 4, lines 24-36 – with insertion of a task, the task schedule is inherently readjusted so the progress can be monitored); and requesting a report for each member in the group, the report configured to display progress of the project tasks for each member, wherein the report is capable of presenting the ad hoc tasks for each member of the

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group over a tracking period (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period, inherently this includes those tasks inserted by the manager).

As per **claim 2**, Jalla teaches approving a set of the projects for implementation (column 3, lines 50-54 – inherently since the overall manager feeds the tasks for the projects into the task manager, they are approved).

As per **claim 3**, Jalla teaches entering completed tasks (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period).

As per **claim 4**, Jalla teaches the projects, the planned tasks, the ad hoc task, and the completed tasks are stored in databases as flat files (column 3, lines 51-53 – all tasks are fed into the computer program and stored, column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of the tasks are reported and stored).

As per **claim 5**, Jalla teaches the report is further configured to display a list including planned tasks for the tracking period and completed tasks for the tracking period for each member, the list dynamically readjusting as the project tasks readjust (column 3, lines 12-19 – the task management system is dynamic in that it reflects any and all modifications).

As per **claim 7**, Jalla teaches establishing a projected project list tallying the projects (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 – inherently the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed); dividing each of the projects of the projected project list into planned tasks; assigning the planned tasks (column 3, lines 50-53 – inherently the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed); receiving a request for an ad hoc task which interrupts a planned task schedule(column 4, lines 24-36 – tasks, not

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previously included, can be inserted into the schedule for a member); storing the ad hoc task; and in response to receiving the ad hoc task, readjusting the planned task schedule to incorporate the interruption caused by the ad hoc task (column 4, lines 24-36 – with insertion of a task, the task schedule is inherently readjusted so the progress can be monitored).

As per **claim 8**, Jalla teaches entering completed tasks; and presenting reports (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period).

As per **claim 9**, Jalla teaches updating progress on the planned tasks for each tracking period (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period).

As per **claim 11**, Jalla teaches the ad hoc task is a plurality of ad hoc tasks (column 4, lines 24-36 – any number of tasks can be inserted in the program).

As per **claim 12**, Jalla teaches generating a warning if more than a target limit of the ad hoc tasks are received by a group member (column 4, lines 25-37 – when a member has too many tasks scheduled and cannot complete all of them, there is removal of the tasks from the schedule and transfer of the tasks to a task pool, inherently these tasks are stored and reallocated to other members for completion since they must be completed in order for the project to be complete).

As per **claim 13**, Jalla teaches redirecting ad hoc tasks received by first group member in excess of a target limit to a second group member (column 4, lines 25-37 – when a member has too many tasks scheduled and cannot complete all of them, there is removal of the tasks from the schedule and transfer of the tasks to a task pool, inherently these tasks are stored and reallocated to other members for completion since they must be completed in order for the project to be complete).

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As per **claim 14**, Jalla teaches a projected project list database, the projected project list database including initiatives of the group (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 –the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed and are stored in a database); a planned task database, the planned task database including planned tasks to be completed over a tracking period for group members (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 –the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed and are stored in a database); an ad hoc database, the ad hoc database including non-planned tasks performed by group members, the non-planned tasks interrupting the planned tasks(column 4, lines 24-36 – tasks, not previously included, can be inserted into the schedule for a member and are stored); and a completed task database, the completed task database including planned tasks completed over the tracking period, wherein the planned task database and the completed task database is capable of readjusting for schedule slippage due to the non-planned tasks (column 3, lines 51-53 – all tasks are fed into the computer program and stored, column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of the tasks are reported and stored).

As per **claim 15**, Jalla teaches a report generator, the report generator configured to pull data from the databases to track progress of the planned tasks and list the non-planned tasks for each member of the group (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period, inherently this includes those tasks inserted by the manager).

As per **claim 16**, Jalla teaches the system is accessible through a distributed network (column 3, lines 50-55 and column 25-37 – both the members and the managers have access to the task manager computer program, inherently there is a network present to allow this).

As per **claim 18**, Jalla teaches program instructions for recording projects of the group (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 –the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed and are stored in a database); program instructions for planning project tasks for each member in the group, the tasks directed towards completing the projects (column 2, lines 50-60 – background information discloses managing projects including activities or tasks, column 3, lines 50-53 –the tasks fed into the task manager represent parts of projects to be completed and are stored in a database); program instructions for receiving a request for an ad hoc task which interrupts a schedule for the planned project task(column 4, lines 24-36 – tasks, not previously included, can be inserted into the schedule for a member and are stored); program instructions for readjusting the project tasks to capture the interruptions of the ad hoc task; and program instructions for requesting a report for each member in the group, the report configured to display progress of the project tasks for each member, wherein the report is capable of presenting the ad hoc tasks for each member of the group over a tracking period (column 3, lines 51-53 – all tasks are fed into the computer program and stored, column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of the tasks are reported and stored).

As per **claim 19**, teaches program instructions for approving a set of the projects for implementation (column 3, lines 50-54 – inherently since the overall manager feeds the tasks for the projects into the task manager, they are approved).

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As per **claim 20**, teaches program instructions for entering completed tasks (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 6, 17 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalla, US 6,445,968, further in view of Srinivasan, US RE38,633.

As per **claim 6**, Jalla teaches receiving the request for the ad hoc task (column 4, lines 24-36 – tasks, not previously included, can be inserted into the schedule for a member and are stored), but does not include forecasting a delay of a completion date for each of the projects in response to the ad hoc task. However, Srinivasan teaches re-computing completion dates when there is an interruption to the schedule (column 7, lines 34-49). Since both Jalla and Srinivasan both teach project management performance monitoring systems, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to re-compute the completion date in response to an inserted task in order to best reflect when the project can expect to be completed so the organization can adjust any other depending projects or tasks. This makes the project management system more efficient.

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As per **claim 17**, Jalla teaches the report generator (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period, inherently this includes those tasks inserted by the manager), but does not teach the reporting of forecast delays to initiatives effected by the readjusting. However, Srinivasan teaches re-computing completion dates when there is an interruption to the schedule (column 7, lines 34-49). Since both Jalla and Srinivasan both teach project management performance monitoring and reporting systems, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to re-compute the completion date in response to an inserted task and report the results in order to best reflect when the project can expect to be completed so the organization can adjust any other depending projects or tasks. This makes the project management system more efficient.

As per **claim 21**, Jalla teaches the report generator (column 4, lines 32-36 – progress of tasks are reported at the end of a time period, inherently this includes those tasks inserted by the manager), but does not teach the reporting of forecast delays to initiatives effected by the readjusting. However, Srinivasan teaches re-computing completion dates when there is an interruption to the schedule (column 7, lines 34-49). Since both Jalla and Srinivasan both teach project management performance monitoring and reporting systems, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to re-compute the completion date in response to an inserted task and report the results in order to best reflect when the project can expect to be completed so the organization can adjust any other depending projects or tasks. This makes the project management system more efficient.

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Claims 10 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalla, US 6,445,968.

As per **claim 10**, Jalla teaches and estimated time wherein the tasks are tracked, but does not explicitly teach the tracking period is one week. However, since Jalla's system allows for designation of the estimated time during which the tasks are being performed and tracked, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to designate the estimated time as one week or any other time frame to monitor the progress of the plans during the time frame the tasks are actually being performed. This would lead to a more accurate reflection of the performance.

As per **claim 22**, Jalla teaches and estimated time wherein the tasks are tracked, but does not explicitly teach the tracking period is one week. However, since Jalla's system allows for designation of the estimated time during which the tasks are being performed and tracked, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to designate the estimated time as one week or any other time frame to monitor the progress of the plans during the time frame the tasks are actually being performed. This would lead to a more accurate reflection of the performance.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sarin et al, US 6,003,011 – workflow management system wherein ad-hoc process instances can be generalized

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Randell, US 5,826,020 – workflow real time intervention

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnna R. Loftis whose telephone number is 571-272-6736. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JL

4/21/06



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